

Minutes of the Combined Health and Human Services Board and Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2008

Marie Kingsbury, Executive Director of the Women's Center, welcomed the Board and Committee and thanked them for their interest in visiting the Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Duane Paulson (Chair), Janel Brandtjen, Kathleen Cummings, Pauline Jaske, Jim Jeskewitz and Bill Zaborowski. **Absent:** Gilbert Yerge

Board Members Present: Supervisors Duane Paulson, Janel Brandtjen, Jim Jeskewitz and Citizen Members Dennis Farrell (Chair), Flor Gonzalez, Mike O'Brien, Joe Vitale and JoAnn Weidmann. **Absent:** Supervisor Jim Behrend

Others Present: Health and Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Health and Human Services Deputy Director Don Maurer, Public Health Manager Dr. Nancy Healy Haney, Children and Family Services Division Manager Jesús Mireles, Parks and Land Use Director Dale Shaver, Environmental Health Manager Steve Korthof, Chief of Staff Mark Mader, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels, Financial Analyst Bill Duckwitz, and staff of the Women's Center Marie Kingsbury, Mary Hennis, Diane Ripple and Kathy Herbst.

COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS

Announcements

Schuler announced that the ROKS (Recognition of Outstanding Kids) event will be held tonight at 6:00 at the Health and Human Services Building.

Executive Committee Report

Paulson stated that much of the meeting was devoted to discussion on the UW Waukesha campus, their need to expand the education programs, renovations, maintenance, and more space. UW Waukesha is a small liberal arts college with a two year program. It is a starting point for a lot of students as they can complete their first two years and then continue their education at a four-year college. The tuition at UW Waukesha is less expensive than other four year colleges. Employees at the university are paid by the State. There are no funded sports other than what the students themselves pay for. The Soccer Field is cared for by the students as well. The Executive Committee also approved two appointments to the Orchard Ridge Recycling and Disposal Facility Committee. Committee Chairs also gave reports from their respective committees.

Correspondence

Paulson passed around a copy of the Care Wisconsin audit as well as a thank you note from the CARE Center.

Future Agenda Items

Brandtjen would like the committee to tour St. Joe's Dental Clinic.

JOINT AGENDA ITEMS

Human Health Hazard Memorandum of Understanding

Dale Shaver and Steve Korthof lead the discussion under this topic. The Department of Parks and Land Use, Division of Environmental Health and Health and Human Services have been working on the issue of human health hazards for quite some time. A copy of the 2008 Memorandum of Understanding between the two departments was given to all members. The MOU states that both departments will follow state statutes and rules and administrative procedures in their practices. Environmental Health will provide inspection, licensing and enforcement of sanitation regulations of hotels, motels, tourist rooming houses, restaurants, bed and breakfast establishments, vending machine operations, campgrounds, recreational-educational camps, public swimming pools and other establishments in accordance to the most recent "Terms of Agreement" between Waukesha County and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. Any temporary orders issued to operators of licensed establishments will be forwarded to the Health Officer (Peter Schuler). This section continued on with the rights of the operator in the event of a temporary order.

The MOU also stated that Environmental Health will provide an annual report of activities to Health and Human Services. It states they will work closely with the Health Officer in providing communicable disease follow-up in licensed public establishments and waterborne and foodborne investigations. A general description of services was provided and listed the responsibilities of Environmental Health and Public Health following each service.

Extensive discussion followed. A question was asked about reports of mold, and possible need for building inspections, and Korthof noted that there are numerous reasons for mold and a key question often needing to be clarified is whether mold is due to questionable design and construction or because of tenant behaviors (i.e. failing to run exhaust fan). Depending on the answer, it may or may not be a building inspection issue. Korthof noted that suggesting county wide jurisdiction can be touchy and he recalled that he and George Morris, back in 1990, attempted to get support for a countywide housing ordinance, but municipalities wanted to keep that issue within the municipality and not have the county interfere. There is a Landlord/Tenant statute in the state statutes that covers issues such as mold and Environmental Health has created forms to be completed by the consumer when there is a problem. Korthof gave an example of a consumer who called regarding mold in the bathroom and that it was making them ill. They sent her the forms to complete to be returned to Environmental Health. This particular consumer did not complete the paperwork so it is assumed she is addressing her own issues with her landlord. Korthof noted that 80% of the complaints they receive are regarding mold. In some cases is mold is due to a water issue, and a building inspector has the authority to inspect and order that something be done to correct a problem. If the problem is causing medical conditions, they must be validated by a physician, but many times people don't follow through.

Korthof then reviewed the Human Health Hazard Flowchart which is the protocol that Waukesha County follows. A copy of this chart was included in the packets for today's meeting. Shaver noted that there are no statutes that determine how long a process is allowed to take, it is incident determined. When hoarding was discussed, Korthof stated they attempt to get the family engaged in order to do the cleanup. It shouldn't be the county's responsibility to make sure a consumer is cleaning everything up on a daily basis. Cummings asked how often the Human Health Hazard Evaluation Committee (HHHEC) meets and Shaver responded that they meet on an as needed basis, for instance in the case where people are living in a situation where there is hoarding. In addition, there is frequent and ongoing communication between the departments to insure coordination. There is a handout on the HHHEC, its purpose, and who would be involved on the committee. Weidmann asked if the board could be involved in the annual process of drafting the MOU. Cummings asked about lead, but according to Korthof that is a completely separate program. Other issues that have come up in the past have been cockroach issues, meth lab, etc. When Vitale asked about the flowchart, Korthof stated that it only comes into action when there is a complaint.

The MOU defines who is responsible for what. Korthof stated there are 22 counties in Wisconsin that don't have a Human Health Hazard Ordinance. The State statutes don't require that a county have an ordinance. Since members still had numerous questions, it was agreed that the topic of a Human Health Hazard Ordinance would be revisited at another meeting early next year.

Review of National Public Health Performance Standards Project of October 30th

Dr. Healy Haney thanked the board, county supervisors, as well as advisory committee members for their support during the October 30th session. The project was conducted by Eric Ostermann of BadgerBay Management Company. For this particular pilot project they studied two essential public health services. The first was 1) link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable and the second was 2) assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce. There are 10 Essential Services altogether, but this pilot project covered two and was done to determine the feasibility of performing a total evaluation of the public health system in the future. Dr. Healy Haney noted that it proved to be somewhat confusing to some participants, but because this was a pilot that must be viewed as something to be improved in the future. The community itself is a human health system but some are struggling with where they would fit in if there was an actual emergency event. The project had a very positive response – 80% thought it worthwhile to bring all sectors together. Participants felt that business was under represented and there was a question as to why police and fire personnel were not represented.. If we go forward with this project, there would be some changes and a broader section of the community would be invited. Of those who responded to the survey, 93% saw it as a great opportunity to bring members of the community together and 80% agreed to come back and complete the remaining essential services. Many felt the morning orientation was too long and it was determined that in the future they would cut that portion in half. There were 47 organizations represented that day for the project. Many participants felt they needed more orientation on the scoring process. Among the strengths in this county is the number of highly competent health care providers we have. Waukesha County received high marks for its in-service trainings to keep employees up to speed. The group as a whole wanted more time for discussion. The providers in the room had a

high level of knowledge, but there wasn't enough information available on what other agencies are providing. Cultural competency is needed. The Health and Human Services Department received high marks because of methods available for Medicaid enrollment and prescription assistance.

There was some discussion regarding a shortage of doctors in Wisconsin and should we assume that this is in smaller communities? Dr. Healy Haney noted there is a shortage of anesthesiologists in the smaller communities. Maurer stated that public health, as a specialty, is hurting because doctors and nurses prefer to work in a field, agency, or practice where they can earn more and be somewhat selective about their clientele, whereas in the public sector that is not an option. He noted that the Department has had a vacant psychiatrist position underway for over a year.

A question was asked as to whether the Department should go ahead and complete the remaining essential services assessment, and who's going to manage all the groups, If the Department continues this, are there staff prepared to step forward and be a point of resource or the gatekeeper? Healy Haney stated that with the permission of the board and committee, Public Health would like to continue with the process and they have a meeting with the Health Council to present the proposal to them. If Public Health completes the other 8 essential services assessment, would other agencies work with Public Health to help support the continuation. Public Health would look to the Health Council to take some leadership on this issue.

Weidmann stated that there can be a sharing of information between organizations. It is an education process but many agencies don't think they are a part of the public health arena. Public Health is much broader than just government public health. Healy Haney noted that the networking among the agencies was much appreciated by many attendees, who didn't even know they would be first responders. A couple of members felt the session was a little confusing and frustrating, but that they recognized there are many good things in the county. Vitale asked about the knowledge of 211 workers to be able to direct the caller to the appropriate "silo". Schuler noted that 211 workers are very knowledgeable in the area of social services, but their knowledge of medical referrals is not deep enough because they are non-practitioners. Maurer noted that the workers are as well equipped as any organization in our county but that their budget is also challenged.

MOTION: Weidmann made a motion seconded by Gonzalez to continue with the essential services project. All voted and the motion carried 10-1. Supervisor Paulson voted no.

Dr. Healy Haney passed out copies of the Selected Reportable Acute and Communicable Diseases Report for Waukesha County from 2004 until October of 2008. Under Enteric Diseases, E-Coli is trending down from the last couple of years. Under Vaccine Preventable Diseases, there was one case of measles in 2008 and 2 actual cases of rubella. Under STD's Chlamydia continues to rise as did Gonorrhea and Syphilis. Under Other Reportable Diseases, Lyme Disease continues to rise. There are currently 5 active cases of TB. Public Health has to treat all TB referrals like any other active case. There are times they have to supervise that people are taking their medication because some of the clients may have AODA or mental health issues. Dr. Healy Haney explained that TB is a respiratory infection and is spread through close

contact, and transported between counties and regions. There is no vaccine for TB. Latent TB means that it has been in the body for a long time but it is just now showing because your immune system was able to keep you from getting ill. Atypical TB is one that is somewhere else in the body, i.e. brain, bones, etc.

The Women's Center Presentation and Tour

Marie Kingsbury, Executive Director of the Women's Center thanked the Committee and Board for their interest, and provided a power point presentation and handouts regarding the history, mission, and services of the Women's Center. It was noted that the new building was crucially needed as a result of the increased number of assaults and child abuse which occurs in a growing, urbanized county. Whereas at one time, shelters were kept secret, she stated that a philosophical change occurred with the new building as it was realized that attempting to "hide" shelters contributes to lack of knowledge and acknowledgement of the problem. However, there are significant security measures in the new building. She observed that Waukesha County is not immune from the problems of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sexual abuse – in 2006 there were 1,131 reports of sexual assault in Waukesha County and 1,688 reports of child abuse and neglect. The Women's Center provides services to many of those victims and believes that early intervention is valued to minimize ongoing trauma for victims. Discussion ensued as to the life and death decisions faced by many of the recipients of services, and it was noted that the most dangerous time for a victim of domestic violence can be at the point when she decides to leave the abusive relationship. Supervisor Cummings noted the significant downward trend in county funding since 2003, and Ms. Kingsbury acknowledged the trend but indicated understanding of funding difficulties and expressed her appreciation for the supportive efforts the county has made over the years.

The meeting concluded at 3:30 p.m. following a tour of the Women's Center

Minutes recorded by Kathy Leach.

Respectfully submitted

Approved on: _____

Kathleen M. Cummings
Secretary